

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 17 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 5 - 7, 10 - 12, and 17 have been canceled. Claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 13, 14 - 16 have been amended and are presented for reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

In the outstanding Office Action claims 1 - 3, 5 - 8, 10 - 13, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,845,159 to Dömstedt; and claims 4, 9, and 14 - 16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

By this Response and Amendment, claims 1, 2, 5 - 7, and 10 - 12 have been canceled and claims 3, 4, 8, 9, and 13 - 16 have been amended. Claims 4, 9, and 14 - 16 were amended into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 3, 8, and 13 were amended to change their dependency.

It is respectfully submitted that no new matter within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 132 has been introduced to the present application.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1 - 3, 5 - 8, 10 - 13, and 17 as being anticipated by Dömstedt.

Response

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The test for anticipation under section 102 is whether each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987); MPEP §2131. The

identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989); MPEP §2131. The elements must also be arranged as required by the claim. *In re Bond*, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

It is respectfully submitted that Dömstedt fails to disclose each and every element of the independent claims.

Applicants has canceled claims 1, 2, 5 - 7, and 10 - 12 and incorporated the features into claims 4, 9, and 14 - 16, respectively, which were found to contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, the present invention according to now independent claims 4, 9, and 14 - 16 cannot be obtained from the Dömstedt reference. Moreover, dependent claims 3, 8, and 13 are allowable at least for the same reasons as discussed regarding their independent claims.

From the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) should be withdrawn as the claims are distinguished from the cited reference.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the cited reference fails to anticipate these claims.

Therefore, Applicants requests that the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claims 4, 9, and 14 - 16 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Response

As claims 4, 9, and 14 - 16 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, these claims are believed to be allowable. Applicants respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants submits that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

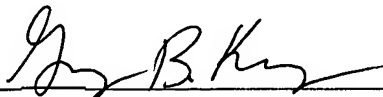
In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicants petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0112.

Respectfully submitted,

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